

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 BIB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6780

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03283

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, WB, FR, US, UK, UR

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRG PRESS SPECULATION ON ALLIED
RESERVATIONS RE MEETINGS OF BUNDESTAG COUNCIL
OF ELDERS AND PRESIDUM IN BERLIN

REF: BONN 3265

SUMMARY: THERE IS ACTIVE PRESS PLAY IN FEBRUARY 27 FRG
PRESS ON BUNDESTAG COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND PRESIDUM FLAP.
DIE WELT HAS CONCEDED THAT NO ALLIED-RENGER EXCHANGE
OF LETTERS TOOK PLACE BUT SAYS THAT ALLIED RESERVATIONS
WERE CONTAINED IN MINUTES OF BONN GROUP MEETING. OTHER
PAPERS HAVE PICKED UP STORY. END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY 27 EDITION OF DIE WELT CARRIES FOLLOW-UP
ARTICLE TO THAT REPORTED IN REFTEL. DIE WELT NOW
ADMITS THAT THERE WAS NO "OFFICIAL LETTER" FROM THE
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ALLIES TO BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT RENGEL STATING THAT

MEETINGS OF THE BUNDESTAG COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND PRESIDUM WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE QA; HOWEVER, DIE WELT ASSERTS THAT ALLIED RESERVATIONS ON SUCH MEETINGS WERE CONTAINED IN "GERMAN--ALLIED PROTOCOL" COVERING A MEETING OF A JANUARY BONN GROUP MEETING. DIE WELT SAYS RENGEL KNEW OF THESE MINUTES.

2. DIE WELT ALSO MAINTAINS THAT A DETAILED EXPOSITION OF ALLIED RESERVATIONS WAS CONTAINED IN A LETTER FROM STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF TO FDP BUNDESTAG FRAKTION LEADER MISCHNICK.

3. DIE WELT FURTHER ASSERTS THAT THE ALLIES CONSULTED WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV BEFORE TAKING A DECISION, THE RESULT BEING A DETERMINATION THAT SUCH MEETINGS WOULD BE "POLITICALLY INOPPORTUNE." A MAJOR COMPONENT OF ALLIED REASONING, DIE WELT CONTINUES, WAS TO AVOID A DISPUTE WITH THE USSR OVER INTERPRETATION OF THE QA WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTATIONS CLAUSE OF THE FINAL QUADRIPARTITE PROTOCOL.

4. DIE WELT ALSO CARRIES A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN OF THE BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE FOR INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, VON WRANGEL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, VON WRANGEL OUTLINES THE PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING CONSENT FOR MEETINGS OF HIS COMMITTEE IN BERLIN, IMPLYING THAT FRG/ALLIED CONSULTATIONS ON SUCH DECISIONS ARE NORMAL AND REGULAR. WHEN ASKED IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY DIFFICULTIES ON THIS SCORE IN RECENT YEARS, VON WRANGEL STATES THAT SUCH A NOTION HAS TO BE PLACED WITHIN A BROADER PERSPECTIVE OF FRG/ALLIED DISCUSSIONS OF AGENDA ITEMS. THERE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSIONS OF INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS, BUT PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN QUICKLY RESOLVED AND NO ITEM HAS EVER BEEN DELETED FROM THE AGENDA FOR BERLIN MEETINGS OF HIS COMMITTEE.

5. DIE WELT ALSO QUOTES FRG DEPUTY PRESS SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD AS SAYING THAT "SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT A SIGNATORY OF THE QA, IT THUS WILL NOT INTERPRET CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AGREEMENT. . . WHEN THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF INTERPRETATION, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CAREFUL TO TAKE THEM UP WITH THE THREE WESTERN POWERS."

6. A SHORT FRONT PAGE GENERAL-ANZEIGER ARTICLE ALSO CARRIES GRUENEWALD'S STATEMENT, REPORTS FRG AND ALLIED DENIALS OF AN "OFFICIAL LETTER" FROM THE ALLIES TO RENGEL. THE ARTICLE DECLARES, HOW-

EVER, THAT ALLIED RESERVATIONS WERE
EXPRESSED BY MEANS OF AGREED PROTOCOL OF A BONN GROUP
MEETING. IT ALSO REPORTS THAT THE FONOFF HAS
DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE "OF ANY KIND OF PIECE OF PAPER"
ON THIS ISSUE.

7. AN FAZ ARTICLE REPORTS RENGER'S DENIAL OF AN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03283

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS, BUT ASSERTS THAT ALLIED RESERVA-
TIONS WERE COMMUNICATED TO HER "ORALLY." THE ALLIES
BASED THEIR OBJECTIONS ON THE FACT THAT THE COUNCIL OF
ELDERS AND PRESIDUM WERE "GOVERNING ORGANS" (LENKUNGS-
ORGANE) OF THE BUNDESTAG.

8. COMMENT: FRG BONN GROUP REP (HENZE) HAS TOLD US

THAT DIE WELT'S COMMENTS ON BONN GROUP PROTOCOL ARE SPECULATORY SINCE HE IS SURE THE FOREIGN OFFICE RECORDS OF BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF MATTER HAVE NOT LEAKED. HE ALSO CLARIFIED DIE WELT REPORT OF A GEHLHOFF-MISCHNICK LETTER SAYING THE LETTER ACTUALLY WAS TO SCHUELER IN THE CHANCELLERY. LETTER WAS A REPORT OF THE BONN GROUP CONSULTATIONS INCLUDING THE "SPEAKING NOTES" PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE USE WITH WOHLRABE (BONN 1862). HENZE ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THIS LETTER COULD HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAKED.

9. ALLIES HAVE AGREED THAT ASSERTION OF ALLIED-ABRASIMOV CONSULTATIONS ON MATTER WILL BE DENIED BY CHAIRMAN ALLIED SPOKESMAN (US) IN BERLIN AND THIS IS BEING DONE. MEETING IS SET HERE FOR LATER TODAY TO CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL MEASURES MAY BE NECESSARY. HILLENBRAND

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